

# Houston Environmental Resources for Educators



## Going Digital? HERE to help!

- [Local field trips](#) outdoors are fun with a scavenger hunt with [iNaturalist](#) and [Seek](#). Students can make a movie of their outdoor experience, too, like this one at [Jesse Jones Park](#). Check out the blog from [National Wildlife Federation](#) on social distancing in the great outdoors.
- [Plant a wildlife garden](#) for pollinators, and make a [time-lapse video](#) of the progress.
- Submit any videos about Houston's environment to [Alicia](#) for the [Wild About Houston Film Festival](#) in October, 2020.
- Visit the [HERE in Houston Facebook page](#) to see two videos from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service about Houston's wildlife, called "Wild Birds" and "Wild Wetlands."
- Teachers, spend time learning about Houston's wilderness at one of more than [50 workshop opportunities](#) this summer.



[Harris-Galveston Subsidence District](#) has videos about subsidence, water conservation and watersheds, in addition to [digital resources](#) for teachers and students.

Learn about the movement of sharks through the Gulf of Mexico with an [Ocearch Tracker](#); resource includes K-8 curriculum in all four core subjects.

[Citizens' Environmental Coalition](#) is on YouTube with a compilation of local videos about air & water quality, Houston's wildlife, and more.

Encourage students to set up and write about their experience composting leaves with [this how-to guide](#) from TAMU.



Use the [Bird Identification Chart](#) from Houston Audubon to learn the basics, and then take a walk to find as many of the [common birds of Houston](#) as you can. Be a citizen scientist and upload data to [eBird](#).

[Interactive lessons](#) about the Texas environment are now available from EcoRise. They are offering [webinars](#) for teachers to learn more about how to use and adapt resources for a virtual environment. Note: accounts are currently free for Houston-area teachers. Email [Kristi](#) for assistance.

Tune in at 11 a.m. everyday to interact with Zookeepers [Live on Facebook](#) at the Houston Zoo.

National Wildlife Federation is hosting a free, online [EcoCareers Conference](#) on April 1 & 2 for high school & college students. There are plenty of [internships & green jobs](#) available in Houston; take

the time now to introduce students to careers in conservation.



**On-demand webinars** from TWA are interactive, available anytime and include a follow-along worksheet. Students can watch at home by clicking one of these links.

[Adaptable Armadillos](#)  
[ASI: Animal Skull Investigations](#)  
[Aquifers and Spring Ecosystems](#)  
[Bats-A-Billion](#)  
[Food Chain Fun](#)  
[Complete Metamorphosis](#)  
[Frog Life Cycle](#)  
[Incomplete Metamorphosis](#)  
[Let's Talk Turkey](#)  
[The Magic of Monarchs](#)  
[Prairie Dogs \(Grassland Ecosystem\)](#)  
[Wetland Ecosystems](#)

There are [digital copies of the Critter Connection magazine](#), too, which include local wildlife information, vocabulary builders, crafts and easy activities to do at home.

A promotional graphic for the City Nature Challenge. On the left, the text "Take the City Nature Challenge" is written in green, with "City Nature Challenge" in a larger font. Below it, "April 24 - May 3, 2020" is written in black, followed by "Regional Kickoff Event - April 22, 2020 @ Houston Museum of Natural Science" in a smaller black font. On the right, there is a photograph of a city skyline at night with a park in the foreground. Overlaid on the bottom right of the photo is the text "HOUSTON GALVESTON TEAM" in green and white. A white silhouette of the state of Texas is positioned behind the text on the left, with a green outline of the state's coastline.

- [CITY NATURE CHALLENGE INFO](#) found on the Facebook page.
- Use [iNaturalist](#) or [Seek](#) in your online/digital curriculum. Get the kids outside!
- Check out the [EDUCATORS TOOLKIT](#) for more ideas and help using the app.

# VIRTUALLY WILD! TEXAS



HOSTED BY:



TEXAS A&M  
FOREST SERVICE



**Take your Students on a Virtual Field Trip April 22.** Meet the dancing, booming, stomping, beautiful little bird, the Attwater's prairie chicken (APC)! APCs were once found on six million acres of prairie along the Gulf Coast, from Corpus Christi to Louisiana. In this program, tour the Houston Zoo's captive breeding facility at the NASA Johnson Space Center. Learn about the bird, the science and the hard work that goes into protecting this iconic species of Texas' coastal prairie. **Free sign up and full calendar available on the [ESC webpage](#).**

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## **GRANTS FOR FREE MILKWEED**

Do a deep dive into [Monarch Watch](#) materials. The butterflies are back after a cool winter in Houston. They make a great teaching tool about pollinators, native plants, habitat restoration, soil types, insecticides, citizen science, and more.

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**LET'S GET TOGETHER** on May 6. [Environmental Educators Exchange](#) is open to all educators to network, learn and share. Meet at Memorial Park Conservancy to learn about iNaturalist, go on a scavenger hunt, and see the latest resources from Texas A&M Forest Service and Caroline Cruz. Details/RSVP on [Eventbrite](#).

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## **A Final Thought...**

Remember, kids who learn and play in nature are physically and mentally healthier, do better in school, have better self-discipline and higher self-esteem, are more cooperative, are good problem solvers, and become tomorrow's conservation leaders. Find the research on the [Texas Children in Nature page](#), and reconsider your "business as usual" in ways that engage children in nature.

Take your program one step further. Revisit the [Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education](#) from the North American Association for Environmental Education. With free PDF booklets, review the recommendations for your specific program and consider ways to improve.

Finally, take the extra time to complete the [Texas Certified Environmental Educator Program](#) through the Texas Association for Environmental Education. Contact [Brian](#) if you need help, or have any questions.

Stay safe, everyone! And let [Alicia](#) know if you need anything, on behalf of the [Citizens' Environmental Coalition](#) and [HERE in Houston](#).

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# CITIZENS' ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION



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